



Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: October 10, 2018

Time: 7:15 PM

Location: Town Hall Annex, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Members in Attendance: Daniel Amstutz, Wayne Chouinard, Lenard Diggins, Pamela Heidell, Brian Kmetz, Melissa Laube, Howard Muise, Corey Rateau, Scott Smith

Members Missing: Charles Giroux, Michael Gordon, Jeffrey Maxtutis

Howard Muise called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Public Comments: None.

Administration: Minutes of September 12, 2018 were approved unanimously. There was no correspondence for the meeting. The Individual Action List and Active Projects List were distributed.

Town Issues and Activities:

Wayne Chouinard distributed a memo on DPW project updates:

- There is no update on the remaining items for the Safe Travel Project.
- 100% design plans have been received for the Lake Street/Minuteman Bikeway improvements. The cost is \$725,000; \$117,000 is included as pedestrian lighting. The signal at the Bikeway will be coordinated with upgraded signals at Brooks Ave.
- The design process is ongoing for the Mystic Street Bridge. Total cost is estimated at \$1.6 million, of which \$600,000 is for a sewer siphon rebuild that must be completed.
- Miscellaneous items included sidewalk and ramp construction and rehabilitation. There was also discussion of putting in a fog line on Jason Street to narrow the lane widths to ten feet wide.

Corey Rateau noted several items:

- There is a new traffic warden at the Gibbs School and Mass Ave.
- He is looking into purchasing four more traffic counters so a whole four-way intersection can be counted at the same time. A four tube layout costs around \$6,700.
- Maintenance staff from the parking meter vendor IPS are expected to come out and fix the broken pay stations in the Russell Common Lot next week. There has

been discussion of creating a contract for meter maintenance. Certain meters also need to have coins collected more frequently to prevent them from becoming jammed. There is a Parking Implementation/Governance Committee meeting next Monday at 8 am to discuss further parking issues.

- There was a pedestrian crash at Mass Ave and Medford Street on October 3. It appears the pedestrian was in the crosswalk and had the right of way when they were struck by a driver. The investigation has been picked up by the state police. They have served the operator of the vehicle with charges.

Daniel Amstutz noted several items:

- The next TAC meeting, scheduled for November 14, conflicts with the final BRT forum, which is being held in the Town Hall Auditorium from 7-9 pm. Howard Muise noted that he will need to look at moving the date of the next meeting.
- October 10 is International Walk to School Day. In the morning Amstutz participated in the walk to school event at Stratton Elementary. The event attracted hundreds of parent and student participants and was organized by a parent volunteer.
- Amstutz asked about the traffic signals at the intersection of Mystic Street and Summer Street. The pedestrian signal phase is too short to cross the Summer Street leg of the intersection. Chouinard noted he would look into this.
- A resident visited the Department of Planning and Community Development offices and is planning to petition the Select Board for a speed table or raised intersection at Bates Road and Raleigh Street because they are concerned about excessive speeding. Amstutz found a TAC report from five years ago that looked at this same issue and did not recommend speed humps or other infrastructure devices. However, this may come up again in the near future.
- There is an issue with the new pavement on Tufts Street next to the Gibbs School. The curb ramp for the crosswalk at Tufts and Raleigh Street on the west (school) side is not flush with the new pavement. Chouinard said he will look into getting this fixed.
- Amstutz inquired about the approach to Mass Ave from Jason Street. It looks like traffic is supposed to turn right only based on the pavement markings and signage. Chouinard explained that

Speed Safety Zones at Magnolia and Menotomy Rocks Parks:

The Committee discussed data gathered for Herbert Road at Magnolia Street (Magnolia Park) and Jason Street south of Woodland Street (Menotomy Rocks Park). Based on the speed data collected, it is easier to justify a Speed Safety Zone for Herbert Road at Magnolia Park than on Jason Street. MassDOT advised the Town that the 85th percentile speeds should be 25 mph or below in order to bring the speed limit down to 20 mph. Committee members noted that the speeds at Menotomy Rocks Park were too high to bring the limit down to 20 mph without additional traffic calming measures. The Committee voted unanimously to advise the Select Board to create a Speed Safety Zone on Herbert Road and Magnolia Street at Magnolia Park. Chouinard and Rateau will do further review on Jason Street before making recommendations on creating a Safety Zone there.

Mass Ave BRT Pilot:

Daniel Amstutz noted the BRT Pilot has been going well, and preliminary feedback from bus riders is positive. However, many people have said that the dedicated bus lane needs to be longer to have more effect on bus travel times and reliability. There has been some confusion about the bus stop moving from in front of the Capitol Theatre to the other side of Lake Street, due in part to uncertainty about whether the stop move is temporary or permanent. The Town has decided to make the stop relocation permanent and is working to install the necessary infrastructure for the stop. It was suggested that the pavement markings for the parking spaces be ground out instead of just blacked out.

2018 Town Day:

Muise thanked Pamela Heidell for organizing the Town Day booth. He also thanked members of the committee who staffed the booth. The Jeopardy board was a big hit. Comments and issues raised by residents who came by the booth included Downing Square, Lake Street, replacement of various traffic signs, and lighting on the Minuteman Bikeway. Chouinard noted a need to bring together the traffic signal working group again. There was also discussion of the traffic study for Arlington High School and shifting traffic access off of Mass Ave. TAC has been asked to comment on the traffic impact study. Muise will pull together a working group to review the study and provide comments.

Crosswalk Guidelines:

Muise noted that TAC crosswalk guidance was included in the meeting materials. The primary guidance is from 2003 and may need to be updated. Amstutz noted that he was looking for more clear guidance about how TAC and the Town reviews and makes decisions for installing pedestrian crosswalks. Scott Smith volunteered to research up to date crosswalk guidance that could be used to update the TAC guidance document. He will update TAC at the next meeting.

Crosswalk on Rhinecliff at Oakland:

The Committee discussed this crosswalk request and data gathered on the number of pedestrians crossing at this intersection. Based on this data and various considerations around the intersection, TAC voted unanimously to not recommend a crosswalk at this time.

Crosswalk on Summer at Buzzell Field/Victoria Street:

Rateau and Chouinard still need to review this request and will update the Committee at the next meeting.

Crosswalk at Academy at Maple:

The Committee took no action on this item.

Crosswalk on Medford at Webcowet/Hamilton:

The Committee took no action on this item.

Stop Signs on Hayes at Maynard/Mystic Lake:

Rateau noted he still has to do counts at these intersections to determine which roads have more traffic. The Committee was skeptical that the roads would meet warrants for stop signs. TAC will review the data collected at the next meeting.

Entry Restriction on Glenburn at Park:

Chouinard noted he had sent traffic counts to Muise. Muise said he will look for them and bring them back to the next Committee meeting.

Bike Share Program:

Amstutz noted the bike share program is going well. More than 10,000 rides have been completed in Arlington. E-Assist Electric Bikes are now available for users. Much of the usage is taking place on Mass Ave, the Minuteman Bikeway, at Alewife, and in East Arlington. A press release with more data about the program is forthcoming.

Jason Street:

This was addressed under Miscellaneous items in the DPW report above.

Gibbs School:

This was addressed under Town Issues and Activities above.

School Issues/Pedestrian Flags:

There was nothing to report on this item.

Traffic Calming on Kensington Park:

A count and speed study need to be done for this item before action can be taken. DPW and APD will review.

Arlington Reservoir/Lowell Street:

More information is needed about the master plan for the Reservoir before TAC can review.

Appleton Street/Paul Revere Road:

A traffic count needs to be set up to determine whether a signal is warranted at this intersection. There was also discussion of setting up a speed trailer along the street.

Safe Pedestrian Access at Bus Stops:

Muise noted he would provide information to Melissa Laube. The document Laube is working on will establish criteria for pedestrian access. Follow-up with the MBTA will be necessary.

Howard Muise adjourned the meeting at 9:55 pm.